

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 8

1595 Wynkoop Street
DENVER, CO 80202-1129
Phone 800-227-8917
http://www.epa.gov/region08

SEP 0 9 2014

Ref: 8ENF-UFO

<u>CERTIFIED MAIL 7008-3230-0003-0727-5829</u> <u>RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED</u>

Mr. J D Horrocks Newfield Exploration Company Route 3, Box 3630 Myton, UT 84052

Re:

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

Notice of Violation:

Loss of Mechanical Integrity

Tar Sands Federal 10-33-8-18 Well EPA Permit No.# UT22197-09797

API # 40-013-31884 Duchesne County, UT

Dear Mr. Horrocks:

On September 3, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency learned that the Newfield Exploration Company injection well referenced above lost mechanical integrity on September 3, 2014. Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Section 144.51(q)(1) (40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(1)), you must establish and maintain mechanical integrity. A loss of mechanical integrity is a violation of this requirement.

Pursuant to the above-referenced UIC Permit and the regulations at 40 C.F.R. § 144.51(q)(2), you must immediately cease injection into this well. Before injection may resume, you must demonstrate that the well has mechanical integrity by passing a mechanical integrity test (MIT). You must also receive written authorization from the EPA.

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter, please submit a letter describing what action you intend to take regarding the well, including a time frame in which you anticipate the work to be completed. It is expected that you will return this well to compliance within ninety (90) days of the loss of mechanical integrity.

If you choose to plug and abandon this well, a plugging and abandonment plan must be submitted to the EPA for approval prior to the plugging operation.

Failure to comply with the UIC regulations found at 40 C.F.R. Parts 144 through 148 constitutes one or more violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300h. Such non-compliance may subject you to formal enforcement by the EPA, as codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Don Breffle at (303) 312-6198. Please direct all correspondence to the attention of Don Breffle at Mail Code 8ENF-UFO.

Sincerely,

Arturo Palomares, Director
Water Technical Enforcement Program
Office of Enforcement, Compliance
and Environmental Justice

cc: Gordon Howell, Chairman
Uintah & Ouray Business Committee
P.O. Box 190
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Reannin Tapoof, Executive Assistant Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Tony Small, Councilman Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Phillip Chimburas, Councilman Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026 Ronald Wopsock, Vice-Chairman Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Stewart Pike, Councilman Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Bruce Ignacio, Councilman Uintah & Ouray Business Committee P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Manuel Myore, Director of Energy, Minerals and Air Programs Ute Indian Tribe P.O. Box 190 Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

John Rogers Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining P.O. Box 145801 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114